

FACT SHEET

Flooding- Our Nation's Most Frequent and Costly Natural Disaster

WHAT TO KNOW ...WHAT TO DO

FLOOD SAFETY AWARENESS

FEMA is proud to partner with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Weather Service (NWS) to demonstrate flood risks across the country and provide important information about steps you can take to protect yourself and your family.

Flooding is the most frequent severe weather threat and the costliest natural disaster facing the nation. Ninety percent of all natural disasters in the U.S. involve flooding.

KNOW YOUR RISK

There are a number of things you can do before, during and after a flood to reduce your risk. Visit www.ready.gov/floodawareness to learn more.

BEFORE A FLOOD...

1. Know safety tips and build an emergency supply kit. Visit www.ready.gov for a disaster supply checklist and or www.weather.gov/floodsafety for flood safety tips and information from the National Weather Service.

2. Have a family emergency plan in place. Plan and practice flood evacuation routes from home, work and school that are on higher ground.

3. Move important objects and papers to a safe place. Store your valuables where they won't get damaged.

DURING A FLOOD...

1. Go to higher ground. Get out of areas subject to flooding, including dips, low spots, canyons, washes, etc.

2. Avoid areas already flooded, especially when water flows fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. Just six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.

3. Never drive through flooded roadways. Roadbeds may be washed out under flood waters and just two feet of moving water can sweep an SUV off the road.

AFTER A FLOOD...

1. Check for damage. Check for structural damage before re-entering your home. If you suspect damage to water, gas, electric or sewer lines, contact authorities.

2. Remove wet contents immediately. Wet carpeting, furniture, bedding and any other items holding moisture can develop mold within 24 to 48 hours. If any mold develops, throw the item away.

3. Thoroughly dry out the building's interior.

4. Clean and disinfect everything that was touched by floodwaters or mudflows. Throw away food that has come into contact with floodwaters and boil water until authorities declare the water supply safe to drink.

FILE YOUR FLOOD INSURANCE CLAIM

- 1. When filing your claim, be sure to provide: the name of your insurance company, your policy number and a telephone number or e-mail address where you can be reached.
- 2. Take photos of any water in the house and damaged personal property. Adjusters need evidence of the damage and damaged items to prepare your repair estimate.
- 3. Make a list of all damaged or lost items and include their age and value where possible.



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